

Congress of the United States

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BOSNIA DEPLOYMENT TAX RELIEF
DOLE & GINGRICH PROPOSE EASING TAX FILING BURDEN
ON AMERICAN SOLDIERS HEADED TO BOSNIA

WASHINGTON -- Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole and House Speaker Newt Gingrich today announced that they plan to include in a continuing resolution tax relief for American troops deployed to Bosnia. The relief would include additional time to file returns without interest or penalties, or to claim a refund. The leaders also support exempting from tax additional compensation paid to troops for their participation in the Bosnia deployment. A joint statement from Senator Dole and Speaker Gingrich follows:

"As we approach consideration of a continuing resolution -- and as American soldiers begin their deployment to Bosnia -- it is our view that any continuing resolution should provide appropriate tax relief for our troops deployed to Bosnia.

"At a minimum, the tax relief should be similar to that provided to troops involved in Operation Desert Shield, including additional time to file their tax returns without interest or penalties, or to claim a refund for overpayment of taxes. This relief will ensure that the Internal Revenue Service does not make life more difficult for our soldiers than the rigors of their Bosnian duty certainly will. Our men and women in the mountains of Bosnia have more important things to focus on than compiling records, meeting paperwork deadlines, or worrying about being penalized by the nation they are serving. We also support exempting from tax any additional compensation paid to troops for their participation in the military deployment.

"Providing this tax relief now will be another important indication of Congress' unequivocal support for our men and women in uniform. We look forward to working with our Democratic colleagues to ensure that this relief is adopted by the House and Senate at the earliest possible opportunity."

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